**LSTA project: Otis Library, Norwich Connecticut**

LSTA funding established the Otis Library in Norwich as a viable community venue for reaching out to and serving older adults with programming intended to improve cognitive function and overall wellbeing. Funding provided for this project created a pathway of support for older adult in the Norwich community.

The *Connecting Community* project aligned the community's older adult population with free and open access to information, ideas and services and welcomed older adults to a safe environment that offered resources and programs to promote lifelong learning.

Project director Julie Menders cross-advertised with multiple community stakeholders (the Rose City Senior Center, Norwich Community Cinema, Norwichtown Rehabilitation and Care Center, and AHEPA Retirement Community) and, where possible, shared resources and ideas. The end result was focused programming that allowed participants to engage with their community and their families while increasing their quality of life, personal wellbeing, and growth.

**Outcome-based evaluation:**

Otis Library used pre and post program evaluations to determine knowledge gain, degree of learning, and skill gain. Otis Library hosted 13 programs geared toward older adults on-site attended by a total of 153 unduplicated patrons. Results are as follows:

21% of (7 of 33) patrons attending the 1,000 Places To See Before You Die Lunch & Learn session with travel author Patricia Schultz on August 10, 2012 reported a 57% rise in knowledge about domestic travel immediately after the program.

21% of (7 of 33) patrons attending the 1,000 Places To See Before You Die Lunch & Learn session with travel author Patricia Schultz on August 10, 2012 reported a 71% rise in knowledge of travelling abroad immediately after the program.

21% of (7 of 33) patrons attending the 1,000 Places To See Before You Die Lunch & Learn session with travel author Patricia Schultz on August 10, 2012 reported a 57% rise in knowledge of travel safety immediately after the program.

21% of (7 of 33) patrons attending the 1,000 Places To See Before You Die Lunch & Learn session with travel author Patricia Schultz on August 10, 2012 reported a 71% rise in knowledge about travel journalism immediately after the program.

21% of (7 of 33) patrons attending the 1,000 Places To See Before You Die Lunch & Learn session with travel author Patricia Schultz on August 10, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the author and her work immediately after the program.

100% of (2 of 2) patrons attending the tour of the Otis Library and combined visit with Kate Bucklin, Editor of Norwich Magazine on November 13, 2012 reported a 50% rise in knowledge of the services available at Otis Library immediately after the program.
100% of (2 of 2) patrons attending the tour of the Otis Library and combined visit with Kate Bucklin, Editor of Norwich Magazine on November 13, 2012 reported a 50% rise in knowledge of the programs held at Otis Library immediately after the program.

100% of (2 of 2) patrons attending the tour of the Otis Library and combined visit with Kate Bucklin, Editor of Norwich Magazine on November 13, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the parking and accessibility of Otis Library immediately after the program.

100% of (2 of 2) patrons attending the tour of the Otis Library and combined visit with Kate Bucklin, Editor of Norwich Magazine on November 13, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the new Norwich Magazine immediately after the program.

100% of (2 of 2) patrons attending the tour of the Otis Library and combined visit with Kate Bucklin, Editor of Norwich Magazine on November 13, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the work of an editor of a magazine immediately after the program.

56% of (9 of 16) patrons attending the screening of the documentary film Lost Bohemia on November 23, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge about the apartments located above Carnegie Hall immediately after the program.

56% of (9 of 16) patrons attending the screening of the documentary film Lost Bohemia on November 23, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the artists living above Carnegie Hall immediately after the program.

56% of (9 of 16) patrons attending the screening of the documentary film Lost Bohemia on November 23, 2012 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of the eviction and renovations at the apartments above Carnegie Hall immediately after the program.

100% of (8 of 8) patrons attending the 19th Century Christmastide Lunch & Learn program with Rick Spencer on December 6, 2012 reported a 87% rise in knowledge of American Christmas traditions and customs of the late 1800’s immediately after the program.

100% of (8 of 8) patrons attending the 19th Century Christmastide Lunch & Learn program with Rick Spencer on December 6, 2012 reported a 87% rise in knowledge of Victorian English Christmas traditions and customs immediately after the program.

100% of (8 of 8) patrons attending the 19th Century Christmastide Lunch & Learn program with Rick Spencer on December 6, 2012 reported a 87% rise in knowledge of the background of Christmas songs and carols of the late 1800’s immediately after the program.

100% of (6 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafts for the Holidays program on December 11, 2012 reported a 66% rise in knowledge of the latest trends in crafting with paper immediately after the program.

100% of (6 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafts for the Holidays program on December 11, 2012 reported a 66% rise in knowledge of creating paper crafts immediately after the program.
100% of (6 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafts for the Holidays program on December 11, 2012 reported a 66% rise in knowledge of decorating and/or wrapping with paper crafts immediately after the program.

60% of (6 of 10) patrons attending The Drop-In Knitting Group (begun January 3, 2013) reported a 83% rise in their knowledge of knitting during the program.

60% of (6 of 10) patrons attending The Drop-In Knitting Group (begun January 3, 2013) reported a 50% rise in their knitting skills during the program.

42% of (6 of 14) patrons attending the showing of documentary film Harry Belafonte: Sing Your Song on February 25, 2013 reported a 83% rise in their knowledge of the subject as a performer immediately after the program.

42% of (6 of 14) patrons attending the showing of documentary film Harry Belafonte: Sing Your Song on February 25, 2013 reported a 66% rise in their knowledge of the subject’s work on behalf of the Civil Rights movement immediately after the program.

42% of (6 of 14) patrons attending the showing of documentary film Harry Belafonte: Sing Your Song on February 25, 2013 reported a 66% rise in their knowledge of Harry Belafonte’s work against apartheid in South Africa immediately after the program.

42% of (6 of 14) patrons attending the showing of documentary film Harry Belafonte: Sing Your Song on February 25, 2013 reported a 66% rise in their knowledge of Harry Belafonte’s work with gangs, prisons, and incarcerated youth immediately after the program.

66% of (4 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafting for Valentine's Day on February 12, 2013 reported a 75% rise in knowledge of creating paper crafts immediately after the program.

66% of (4 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafting for Valentine's Day on February 12, 2013 reported a 75% rise in knowledge of creating cards by hand immediately after the program.

66% of (4 of 6) patrons attending the Paper Crafting for Valentine's Day on February 12, 2013 reported a 75% rise in knowledge of the latest trends in paper crafting immediately after the program.

58% of (10 of 17) patrons attending the Downsizing/Rightsizing with Professional Organizers program on March 12, 2013 reported a 100% rise in knowledge of downsizing/downscaling their home immediately after the program.

58% of (10 of 17) patrons attending the Downsizing/Rightsizing with Professional Organizers program on March 12, 2013 reported a 90% rise in knowledge of Professional Organizers and their skills immediately after the program.
58% of (10 of 17) patrons attending the Downsizing/Rightsizing with Professional Organizers program on March 12, 2013 reported a 90% rise in knowledge of personal organizations skills, and the services they offer immediately after the program.

71% of (5 of 7) patrons attending the musical performance with Good Company on April 9, 2013 reported a 80% rise in knowledge about the music of Irving Berlin immediately after the program.

71% of (5 of 7) patrons attending the musical performance with Good Company on April 9, 2013 reported a 80% rise in knowledge of the music of Rodgers & Hammerstein immediately after the program.

71% of (5 of 7) patrons attending the musical performance with Good Company on April 9, 2013 reported a 60% rise in knowledge of the classic American Songbook immediately after the program.

75% (6 of 8) patrons attending the six-week memoir writing workshop with Leslie McGrath on Thursdays (April 11, 2013 through May 16, 2013) reported a 100% rise in knowledge of memoir writing after the program’s conclusion.

64% of (9 of 14) patrons attending the Researching Your Ancestors on June 11, 2013 reported a 77% rise in knowledge of genealogy research immediately after the program.

64% of (9 of 14) patrons attending the Researching Your Ancestors on June 11, 2013 reported a 66% rise in skill at researching (e.g., census records, cemetery records, obituaries, etc.) immediately after the program.